



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

### Fish and Wildlife Service

For Release: October 14, 1993

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#### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REMINDS WATERFOWL HUNTERS BISMUTH SHOT IS NOT LEGAL

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reminding waterfowl hunters that bismuth shot has not been approved as nontoxic shot and may not be used for hunting waterfowl or coots in the United States. Recently, the Service has received many inquiries concerning the legal status of bismuth and other alternatives to steel shot.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has established testing procedures for determining whether candidate shot types are toxic when ingested by waterfowl. Only the Service may approve a shot as being nontoxic. Steel shot is the only shot type currently approved as nontoxic, and the corrosion-prevention metallic coatings allowed on steel shot are nickel, copper, zinc chloride, and zinc chromate.

Although interest in bismuth shot is growing, questions concerning toxicity still remain and must be resolved through further study. Once the Service has received an application for approval of bismuth, along with supporting evidence of its nontoxicity, the application will be processed in accordance with existing regulations and in a timely fashion.

For further information on this please contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Migratory Bird Management, 1849 C Street, NW, (ARLSQ 634), Washington, DC 20240, or call (703) 358-1714.

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